

00862.022238



## **PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Shigeyuki UZAWA

Application No.: 09/865,454

Filed: May 29, 2001

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, DEVICE  
MANUFACTURING METHOD,  
SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING  
PLANT AND METHOD OF MAINTAINING  
EXPOSURE APPARATUS  
THE METHOD

)  
: Examiner: A. Stevenson  
)  
: Group Art Unit: 2812  
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:  
) April 28, 2003  
: (Monday)  
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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application.

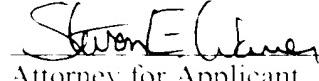
No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	38	MINUS	38	0	x \$9 \$18	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	10	MINUS	10	0	x \$42 \$84	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$140 \$280						\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00

- Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.
- A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.
- Charge \$\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 CFR 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ to cover the fee for a \_\_\_\_ month extension is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.
- Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicant  
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## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated March 26, 2003.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement among four groups of claims. Group I, claims 1-24 and 35-38, is drawn to an exposure apparatus, and is classified in class 257, subclass 9. Group II, claims 25-30, is drawn to a method of manufacturing semiconductor devices, and is classified in class 438, subclass 14. Group

III, claims 31 and 32, is drawn to a semiconductor manufacturing plant, and is classified in class 148, subclass 95. Group IV, claims 33 and 34, is drawn to a method of maintaining an exposure apparatus, and is classified in class 716, subclass 21.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I, II, III and IV are related as an exposure system, a method for producing a device, a production factory, and a method for maintaining an exposure apparatus, and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification such that the searches are not coextensive, requiring separate examination. These contentions are respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that the inventions of Groups I, II, III and IV are so closely related in the field of exposure and semiconductor manufacture, that a proper search of any of the claims would, of necessity, require a search of the others. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously, and that a duplicative search, with possibly inconsistent results, may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Applicant further submits that any nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to search an additional subclass or two, necessary to determine the art relevant to Applicant's overall invention, is significantly outweighed by the public interest in not having to obtain and study several separate patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering Applicant's invention. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of multiple applications, each consisting of generally the same disclosure, and each being subjected to essentially the same search, perhaps by different Examiners on different occasions. This places an unnecessary burden on both the Patent and Trademark Office and on Applicant.

In the interest of economy, for the Office, for the public-at-large and for Applicant, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1-24 and 35-38.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are also requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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